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Have a very Merry Christmas!

TODAY'S VERSE

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.



Happenings

Friday, Dec. 22, 2023

NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
North Montgomery Schools, end of second semester

Monday, Dec. 25, 2023

GOVERNMENT
City, County buildings closed
CRAWFORDSVILLE SCHOOLS
Winter Break
NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
Winter Break
WABASH COLLEGE
Offices closed

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023

GOVERNMENT
City, County buildings closed
CRAWFORDSVILLE SCHOOLS
Winter Break
NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
Winter Break
WABASH COLLEGE
Offices closed

Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023

GOVERNMENT
Crawfordsville Historic Preservation Commission, City Building, 5:30 p.m.
CRAWFORDSVILLE SCHOOLS
Winter Break
NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
Winter Break
WABASH COLLEGE
Offices closed

Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023

CRAWFORDSVILLE SCHOOLS
Winter Break
NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
Winter Break
WABASH COLLEGE
Offices closed

Friday, Dec. 29, 2023

CRAWFORDSVILLE SCHOOLS
Winter Break
NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
Winter Break
WABASH COLLEGE
Offices closed

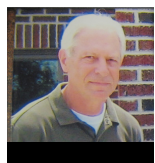
Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023

WABASH COLLEGE
Offices closed

Monday, Jan. 1, 2024

CRAWFORDSVILLE SCHOOLS
Winter Break
NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
Winter Break
WABASH COLLEGE
Offices closed

What Games Did Santa Leave for You?



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

Many youngsters today ask for technology-related gifts for Christmas. I've seen some children who are glued to their smartphones or laptops much of the time, oblivious to anyone or anything around them . . . self-isolated and mesmerized, not wanting to interact with anyone. Back in the day, we had no such problem. Santa brought us lots and lots of games! When the Dales, which also included the Cohee, Wells, and Hampton families, gathered together, you could be sure that after the meal all of the kids headed outside to play, ride bikes or scooters, and chase each other around. But when the weather was not so good, out came the card tables and chairs and a myriad of games.

A few simple games were Tiddly Winks, dominoes, checkers, Cootie, and Mr. Potato Head . . . and for a large group . . . bingo. But most of us preferred playing board games against two or three others while sitting at a table and discussing school happenings, boy-girl relationships, and any new gossip among our peers . . . with our soft drinks and a big bowl of buttered popcorn or homemade ice cream nearby. The first board game that I remember playing when I was very young was Uncle Wiggily. I would hate to think how many times I played that game against my cousin Libby Cohee. Two other favorites were Candyland and Chutes and Ladders. Through the years my 21 cousins and I accumulated all types of board games . . . Scrabble, Life, Beat the Clock, Name That Tune, Go to the Head of the Class, Password, Parcheesi, Concentration, Game of the

States, Stratego, Trivial Pursuit, and of course, Monopoly . . . just to name a few. When I was older my favorite was Clue, and I often wonder if that game may have started my interest in becoming a police officer. I never wrote very many traffic tickets, but I was determined to solve cases! There were other games around besides board games. One year my brother and I received Basket, which was a basketball game in which we had to flip levers to try to get a ping-pong ball through the tiny hoops. We played this for hours and hours. A friend of mine received electronic football, but it seemed that the miniature players just buzzed around in all directions. A few other popular games were Connect Four,

➔ See BUTCH Page A4

Clock Ticking For United Way

There are only six working days left in the year and not only does the United Way in Montgomery County need your donation, you might need a tax break. Did you know that a contribution is tax deductible? The campaign goal this year is \$375,000 and the vast majority of that money goes to help those who struggle

sometimes to help themselves. The young, the weak, the elderly, the abandoned, the abused – they're all included in one form or another throughout the 19 agencies in Montgomery County who receive money from United Way – money that would not be there if not for donations like yours.

➔ See CLOCK Page A4



Area Director Gina Haile

➔ **TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Sunlight increases your risk of developing cataracts – wear sunglasses that block UVA and UVB.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com



➔ **TODAY'S QUOTE**

“Christmas gift suggestions: to your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.”
Oren Arnold

➔ **THREE THINGS You Should Know**

- They are close! The organization formerly known as MUFFY, the United Way of Montgomery County, is almost at its fund drive goal of \$375,000! As you know, the money is desperately needed to support 19 non-profit agencies serving Montgomery County and your help is important. Every penny counts! We humbly ask that you please consider a gift where a gift is most needed? Go to www.uwmontgomery.org or mail a check to United Way in Montgomery County, PO Box 247 Crawfordsville, IN 47933.
- There will be a free jazz piano concert featuring Luke Gillespie at 10:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve at Freedom Baptist Church near Waveland. Gillespie, an acclaimed performer and educator of jazz piano, is a professor of jazz piano at Indiana University's Jacob School of Music. Freedom Baptist Church is located just minutes west of the intersection of US234 and US47, between Crawfordsville and Waveland. The program is free.
- The big news out of Colorado this week was the state's Supreme Court ruling that apparently will keep former president Donald Trump off ballots there in 2024. Indiana Senator and gubernatorial candidate Mike Braun had this to say about that. “With the Colorado Supreme Court's decision, the self-anointed ‘defenders of democracy’ have removed their political enemy from the ballot, stripping Colorado voters of their right to vote for the candidate of their choice and joining radical AGs and Biden DOJ in interfering in the 2024 election.”

➔ **TODAY'S JOKE**

Knock Knock.
Who's there?
Igloo.
Igloo who?
Igloo Susie like I knew Susie, oh what a gal!

➔ **THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

Just a reminder: Not only will federal, state, city and county offices be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, so will your favorite Montgomery County Online Edition. That means no editions on Sunday or Monday. And please don't forget that changes are on the way for us as well. Beginning after Christmas, you'll get The Paper piping hot and fresh in your e-mail inbox at 4 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays – except for holidays. The price is still \$42 and you can renew or buy a subscription at www.thepaper24-7.com.

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **KEN RANDOLPH** for subscribing!



The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset

RISE: 8:07 am
SET: 5:26 pm



High/Low Temperatures

HIGH: 49°F
LOW: 42°F



Today is...

- Abilities Day
- National Cookie Exchange Day



What Happened On This Day

• **1937** Lincoln Tunnel opens. The 1.5-mile-long (2.4 km) long tunnel passes under the Hudson River and connects New Jersey to New York City.

• **1882** First Christmas tree to be illuminated by electric lights displayed. Edward H. Johnson, an associate of inventor Thomas Edison and the Vice President of the Edison Electric Light Company, became the first person to decorate a Christmas tree with electric lights at his home in New York City.

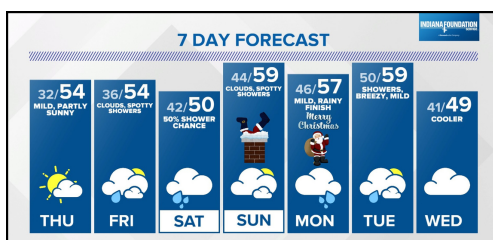


Births On This Day

- **1989** Jordin Sparks American singer-songwriter, actress
- **1912** Lady Bird Johnson American wife of Lyndon B. Johnson, 38th First Lady of the United States

Deaths On This Day

- **1914** Joe Cocker - English singer-songwriter
- **1942** Franz Boas - German anthropologist



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES



DICK WOLFSIE Funny Bone

Each year I devote two columns to review what I wrote about during the previous eleven months. For example, last winter I wrote about a cruise we took to Puerto Rico. Getting on the ship's elevator required us to scan our room card. I kept swiping but the elevator door didn't open. A fellow passenger walked by. "You're scanning the hand sanitizer," he told me.

One night I carried the TV remote onto the veranda outside our room that overlooked the ocean. The device slipped out of my hand when the ship rocked and it landed in the Atlantic. "That's never happened before," said the steward. "What were you doing when you dropped it?" "I was channel surfing," I told him.

I made reservations for our trip to the nation's capital to attend a college reunion. Mary Ellen asked me to call and confirm that our

hotel was close enough to walk to some of the area highlights. "How far are you from the White House?" I asked the clerk. "About three thousand miles," he told me. I booked a hotel in Washington, alright. In Seattle Washington I was frustrated that a website rejected some new passwords, so I just ran my fingers haphazardly across the keyboard. VERY STRONG, said the prompt. Please remember to write it down. But I had no idea what I had typed. Was it K\$DFJHG%\$ or was it YQW%KW?O&? Then I tried something simpler. I tried HERCULES, but it was rejected as WEAK. Then I tried SAMPSON. This time it said VERY WEAK. The people at this website have not read their mythology. But it did answer the age-old question of who was stronger.

I asked an AI program to write an essay on why Dick Wolfsie was not funny, just to see what it would come up with. My wife was not impressed when she read it. "Dick this is outrageous; it's full of inaccuracies. You didn't bore people for thirty years on TV." "Thank you, Mary Ellen." "Wasn't it closer to 40?"

With all the Artificial Intelligence warnings, my wife is paranoid that someone might steal one of our identities. Recently I called Mary Ellen to get her Social Security number for a

form I was filling out. That's when she gave me a little quiz to be sure it was me....like what's your brother's name? What was the name of your first dog? She still wasn't convinced. "Mary Ellen, you may ask one more question. Make it a good one." "Okay, Dick—or whoever you are,—when we got married, we stayed in a magnificent vacation spot in Big Sur, California. You said it was the most romantic, glorious hotel you had ever been in and it was a weekend you would never forget. What was the name of the hotel?"

"I don't have a clue."
 "Okay, it's definitely you."

This past spring, we went downtown to a cute little Bed and

Breakfast to celebrate our wedding anniversary. The owner took us upstairs to show us the room, which was very quaint. There was one tiny bed. I'd say, it was a double bed. But, barely.

"Do you like your accommodations?" asked the proprietor. "I love it," said my wife, "but where is my husband going to sleep?" The woman winked at me. "This is your romantic anniversary. I'm sure you will make it work." "Even on our honeymoon, this wouldn't have worked," said Mary Ellen.

A few more next week.

↓ BUTCH

From Page A1

Yahtzee and Simon. My brother liked to play Electronic Battleship, and my sister enjoyed playing the Ouija board with her friends to predict their futures. At teenage parties, one of the most popular games was Twister . . . Hmmm, I wonder why! I think there are many benefits to children playing games together. They learn to follow rules, be patient, wait their turn, and work as a team. In addition, studies have shown that children who participate in board games have enhanced memory skills, a longer attention span, and better language

learning ability. But the best thing is that kids can interact with each other and actually converse . . . instead of text! What? You don't want to close your laptop? You don't want to turn off your phone? Well, kiddo, do it anyway! As they say in another famous board game . . . S-O-R-R-R-R-Y !!!!!

— John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 32 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.

Crawfordsville student makes Dean's List

Kylie Bradford of Crawfordsville qualified for Belmont University's Fall 2023 Dean's List. Approximately 52 percent of Belmont's 7,338 undergraduate students qualified. The Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Chad Hess Realtor of Year Cody Laster Rising Star

F.C. Tucker West Central is proud to announce that two of our esteemed Realtors, Chad Hess and Cody Laster, have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to the real estate industry and the community with prestigious awards. Hess, owner of F.C. Tucker

West Central, has been honored with the coveted Realtor of the Year Award for the local Montgomery County MIBOR division. This prestigious accolade is presented to a division member who not only demonstrates outstanding



Cody Laster & Chad Hess

➔ See REALTOR Page A3

FOR THE RECORD

Union Township Board To Meet
 The Union Township Board will meet on Tuesday Jan. 2 at 5:30 p.m. at the Union Township Trustee's Office, 1311 Darlington Ave., Crawfordsville. This is a public meeting.

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'Tis the season for a Red Cross blood donation

When blood products are fully stocked on hospital shelves, patients don't have to wait for critical care. Giving blood with the American Red Cross in December can help those in need make more holiday memories with loved ones. This is a busy time for many. Holiday gatherings, travel and seasonal illnesses can all impact donor availability, making it hard to collect enough blood. Unfortunately, trauma patients in the emergency room, those undergoing cancer treatment and new parents in need of lifesaving transfusions can't take a holiday break. Donors are needed every single day. Those who come to give blood Dec. 18, 2023-Jan. 5, 2024, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last. To extend a special

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

thank-you to donors for helping address the need for blood, platelets and plasma during the critical post-holiday time, those who come to give Jan. 1-31, National Blood Donor Month,

will be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl. Making and keeping appointments throughout the month can help safeguard the national blood supply into the new year. Schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



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↓ REALTOR From Page A2

success in real estate but also makes significant volunteer contributions to the MIBOR community and exhibits exceptional professionalism. Hess' commitment extends beyond his remarkable career in real estate. For more than 15 years, he has been an influential figure in various community activities, including serving as a past president of MUFFY, the local Red Cross, and a past board member of the Boys and Girls Club. He is a current member of the Montgomery County Community Council and was actively involved in the finance

council for his church. His involvement in local schools, charities, fundraisers, and businesses showcases his dedication to making a positive impact without seeking recognition. Laster was awarded the Denver Hutt Rising Star Award. This award recognizes a member who is making a significant impact in the real estate industry early in their career. In just his second year as a real estate broker, Laster has shown an insatiable desire for learning and excellence in his profession. He has quickly become known for his dedication and effectiveness in

transactions. His commitment to the community is evident through his involvement in initiatives like the MoCo Day of Service, Salvation Army bell ringing, and active participation in his church. He has also taken on the role of Treasurer on the local board for 2023, further demonstrating his commitment to the industry and community. These awards reflect the unparalleled dedication and expertise that Hess and Laster bring to F.C. Tucker West Central and the West Central Indiana real estate market. For more information about Hess, Laster and their services, please contact F.C. Tucker West Central at (765) 362-4700.



Chad Hess



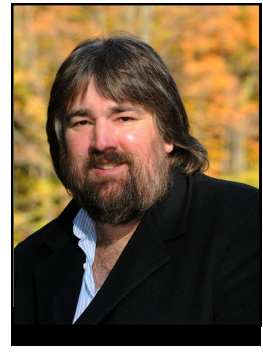
Cody Laster

↓ CLOCK From Page A1

At last count The Paper received, Area Director Gina Haile reported the goal was within reach. Ever wonder who the 19 agencies are? Well, you can go to www.uwmontgomery.org and not only see that, but a whole lot more. But just for the record, there are 19 agencies. ASI, the Boys & Girls Club, Community Chest, CARA, Dawn to Dusk Bereavement Services, Family Crisis Shelter, Fuzzy Bear Preschool, Grace & Mercy Food Pantry, Head Start, Hand in Hand, New Beginnings, Pam's Promise, Recovery Coalition, Sunshine Vans, Through the Gate, Trinity Life, Volunteers for Mental Health, Willson

Literacy and Youth Service Bureau. Please join your friends and neighbors who have already made their contributions and pledges. Ask your employer if they have made theirs – and if there is not a way to donate through automatic payroll deduction at your place of work, ask them how that can be made to happen. If we all work together, this year's goal can be met and life can be just a little better for others. Isn't that what makes a great community after all? Go to www.uwmontgomery.org or mail a check to United Way in Montgomery County, PO Box 247 Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

Wrapping up 2010 through 2020 with Purdue Football



KENNY THOMPSON Columnist

This is part 10 of a series celebrating 100 seasons of Purdue football at Ross-Ade Stadium.

Purdue football has been anything but stable during the past 13 years. Counting interim hires, the Boilermakers have been led by seven head coaches in that time span. Late athletic director Morgan Burke pulled the plug on his coach-in-waiting experiment, firing Danny Hope at the end of the 2012 season with a 22-27 record. Interim coach Patrick Higgins guided the Boilermakers in the Heart of Dallas Bowl, which saw Oklahoma State dominate 58-14. Just when fans thought the period between Jim Young and Joe Tiller was as low as Purdue football could go, along came Darrell Hazell.

Burke threw millions at Hazell, a one-year wonder at Kent State, to come to Purdue after Butch Jones used Burke's unusual public interest to get a better job at Tennessee. Heading a so-called "all-star coaching staff," Hazell staked a claim for worst football coach in Big Ten history. Hazell had just three Big Ten victories in three-and-a-half seasons before being fired by new athletic director Mike Bobinski midway through the 2016 season. Interim coach Gerad Parker, now the new head coach at Troy University, went 0-6. Bobinski hit a home run when he brought in Jeff Brohm following three 10-win seasons at Western Kentucky. From his first game, a close loss to Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson and Louisville at Lucas Oil Stadium, it was clear Brohm would get the Boilermakers turned around. Dramatic bowl victories against Arizona and Tennessee. The first nine-win season at Purdue since 2003 came in 2021, followed up by eight wins and two Associated Press Top 5 upsets in 2022. But the inevitable happened when the Louisville job came open for the second time in five years and Brohm departed for his alma mater. His brother, Brian, served as interim coach in the disastrous 63-7 loss to LSU in the Citrus Bowl.

Nearly all of the Boilermakers' best players opted out of the bowl game despite not a single one of them being projected to be taken in the first three rounds of the NFL Draft. Time will tell whether Ryan Walters will break the Purdue jinx of not having consecutive winning coaches since 1930. Injuries at key positions make it difficult to totally blame Walters and his young staff for a 4-8 season.

Best Ross-Ade games of the 2010-2020s

- Nov. 12, 2011: Purdue 26, Ohio State 23 (OT)** – Robert Marve's quarterback sneak gave the Boilermakers the victory. Bruce Gaston made it possible by blocking an extra point that left the game tied at 20 with 55 seconds to play.
- Nov. 25, 2017: Purdue 31, Indiana 24** – Markell Jones rushed for 217 yards to help Purdue earn a Foster Farms Bowl berth in Jeff Brohm's first season. Jackson Anthrop had touchdown runs of 5 and 4 yards. Quarterback Elijah Sindelar, playing with a torn ACL, found Anthony Mahoungou for a 49-yard TD and Isaac Zico for a 4-yard score to give the Boilermakers a 31-10 lead early in the fourth quarter.
- Oct. 20, 2018: Purdue 49, No. 2 Ohio State 20** – To

be forever known as "the Tyler Trent game," the Boilermakers denied the Buckeyes a national championship shot with an overpowering upset. The terminally ill former Purdue student was profiled earlier in the day on ESPN's GameDay and predicted a Boilermaker victory. Purdue recorded its highest point total against Ohio State in series history. D.J. Knox rushed for three touchdowns, including runs of 42 and 34 yards. Rondale Moore turned a routine pass into a 43-yard touchdown as Ohio State defenders bounced off the speedy freshman. Columbus native Markus Bailey capped the victory with a 41-yard interception return for a touchdown.

- Nov. 6, 2021: Purdue 40, No. 3 Michigan State 29** – Aidan O'Connell shredded the Spartans' pass defense, going 40 of 54 for 536 yards and three touchdowns. For the first time since 1960, Purdue defeated two top-five teams in the Associated Press poll in the same season. In October, the Boilermakers won at No. 2 Iowa.

Top players of 2010-2020s Ross-Ade

Ryan Kerrigan – A unanimous All-American defensive end in 2010, Kerrigan led the Big Ten in sacks (12.5) and tackles for loss (26) as a senior.



Aidan O'Connell



Photos courtesy of Purdue Athletics.

David Bell

He was named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. A first round draft pick by Washington, Kerrigan went on to play 11 seasons in the NFL. **Kawaan Short** – A two-time first-team All-Big Ten defensive tackle, Short was a second-round draft pick by Carolina and played eight seasons in the NFL. **Rondale Moore** – Only the third true freshman consensus first-team All-American in college football history (Herschel Walker, Adrian Peterson), Moore also won Big Ten Freshman and Wide Receiver of the Year honors in 2018.

Moore owns the school record for most all-purpose yards in a game (313) and season (2,215). He was a second-round pick by Arizona in the 2021 NFL Draft. **David Bell** - In three seasons, Bell collected 232 receptions for 2,946 yards and 21 touchdowns. Like Moore, Bell earned Big Ten Freshman of the Year honors in 2019 and was the league's Receiver of the Year in 2021. A two-time first-team All-Big Ten

➔ See KENNY Page A4

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COPAYS AND DEDUCTIBLES MAY APPLY

2024 KIA SELTOS BRINGS UPSCALE VIBE TO AFFORDABLE CROSSOVERS



Like many automotive journalists, the Kia Telluride full-size crossover is high on my list of vehicles for its upscale British style and lush luxury interior. While an excellent value against its competition, if you've priced a Telluride, you know they aren't exactly affordable for many drivers. The Kia Sorento and Sportage are also stylish, but can still post big stickers. No worries because the 2024 Kia Seltos brings all of that upscale vibe to a more affordable crossover.

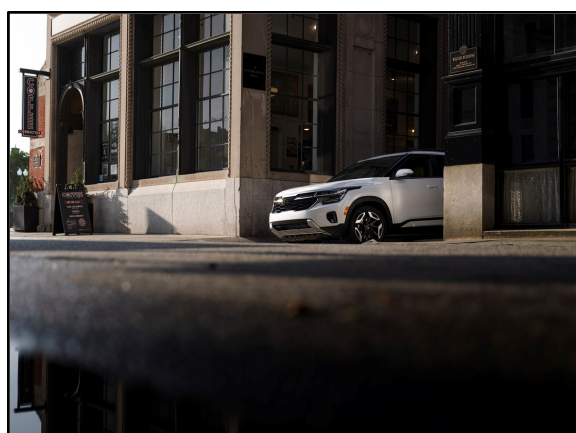


CASEY WILLIAMS Auto Reviews

The interior does too, but economies had to be made. The twin flatscreens, contrasting color seats, and redundant physical controls for climate and audio look like they came from an EV6, but the screens are a little smaller, seats are SynTex faux leather, and the automatic climate control only has one zone. Doors are mostly made of hard plastic, but stitched material on the doors and dash are ravishing. A power sunroof and rear hatch up the posh. No economies were made on the rest of the interior. Our SX edition boasted Bose audio, leather-wrapped flat-bottom steering wheel, and heated/ventilated front seats. Wireless phone charging, navigation, and easy

Bold Upscale Styling

Styling of our SX trim level is more Sorento than Telluride, but there's also a bit of Cadillac to give it an upscale look. The front is dominated by a mesh grille, thin horizontal LED headlamps, and light bar that stretches across. There's plenty of gray plastic around the wheelwells and lower body to lend a hint of capability, but it all looks suave with its sculpted bodysides, floating roof, and sporty 18" wheels. Around back, lights that hint at fins and a full-width element could have come from any recent Cadillac. It all looks expensive.



connections with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are included. The driver even gets power lumbar. Safety is enhanced with adaptive cruise, lane following assist, automatic emergency braking, and rear cross path warning.

Turbocharged Scooting Power

Putting the scoot in this baby penthouse is a 1.6-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine delivering 195 horsepower and 195 lb.-ft. of torque. That's all routed to the torque-vectoring all-wheel-drive system through an eight-speed automatic transmission. Drive modes allow for quicker throttle response and sharper shifts for a sportier feel, or a more relaxed behavior to save fuel, but neither conjures a

change in horsepower. Drive gently to see 25/27-MPG city/highway. There's nothing cheap about how our Seltos drives. There's a bit of turbo lag on initial throttle tip in, but there's plenty of power to move this little crossover with gusto when it spools up. Stomping onto freeways, slipping through traffic, or running flat-out on the Interstate provide little challenge. While front-drive models get a torsion beam rear suspension, our AWD employs a multi-link independent arrangement that flat embarrasses many more expensive models in its ability to absorb rough pavement and still provide agile handling. I think the name is stupid, but the Seltos is not. It looks, feels, and drives every bit like a smaller version of its upscale



siblings. There's plenty of space for four passengers and their stuff and they'll enjoy a cabin loaded with the latest technology. I even enjoyed driving it and parking was a snap. A super affordable base price of \$24,390 rises to just \$33,085 with every conceivable luxury option. Competitors

include the Buick Encore GX, Ford Bronco Sport, VW Taos, and Subaru Crosstrek.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

Likes

- Beautiful interior
- Turbo engine
- Crisp handling

Dislikes

- Hard plastics
- Single-zone auto climate
- Thirsty MPG's

2024 Kia Seltos SX

*Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
Powertrain: 1.6-liter T4, 8-spd trans
Output: 195hp/195 lb.-ft. torque
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 18"/18" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Fuel economy: 25/27 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: Gwangju, Korea
Base/as-tested price: \$24,390/33,085*

↓ KENNY

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selection and a consensus All-American, Bell was taken in the third round of the 2022 NFL Draft by Cleveland. **George Karlaftis** – The most recent member of Purdue's Den of Defensive Ends, Karlaftis was a starter from Day 1 after helping West Lafayette High School win a Class 3A state championship. As a junior, Karlaftis earned first-team All-Big Ten honors after leading Purdue in tackles for loss (11.5) and sacks (5). He was a first-round draft pick by the Kansas City Chiefs in 2022 and earned a Super Bowl ring as a rookie. **Charlie Jones** – A transfer from Iowa, where he had won Big Ten Return Specialist of the Year honors in 2021, Jones made the most of his opportunity in Jeff Brohm's passing attack. Jones earned second-team All-America and first-team All-Big Ten

honors in 2022. His 110 receptions for a school record 1,361 yards led the nation during the regular season. Jones also caught 12 touchdown passes. **Aidan O'Connell** – From eighth-string walk-on to a fourth-round draft pick of the Las Vegas Raiders, O'Connell is the most accurate passer in Purdue history (66.7 percent completions). His five career 400-yard passing games and 14 career 300-yard performances trail only Drew Brees in the Boilermaker record book. As a senior he led the Big Ten in passing yards per game (290.8) and completions per game (26.7) while ranking second in total passing yards (3,490) and third in passing touchdowns (22).

– *Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.*

Shades, Turkey Run have New Year's Plans

Ready to usher in a new year of better health? How about spending the beginning hours of 2024 with other outdoor lovers? Well, you won't even have to leave Montgomery County! Or if you do, you won't have to go far. Shades State Park, Turkey Run State Park are joining 34 other parks and recreation areas with a recent new tradition – First Day Hikes. At Shades in Montgomery County, hikers should plan on meeting at 2 p.m. on Jan. 1 for a rugged hike of Trail 1. At nearby Turkey Run State Park, meet at the nature center at 2 p.m. for a guided hike on the "Best Trail in the Midwest" (Trail 3). Learn about some of Turkey Run's geology along the way on this very rugged trail. No matter which one you go on, be sure to bundle up and bring plenty of water. First Day Hikes are a healthy way to start the new year. They offer a chance to get outside, exercise, enjoy nature, and connect with friends. Find one near you at on.IN.gov/INStateParkEvents.

The hikes are organized by Indiana State Parks in cooperation with America's State Parks. They will take place in all 50 states. First Day Hikes originated more than 20 years ago at the Blue Hills Reservation, a state park in Milton, Massachusetts. The program was launched to foster healthy lifestyles and promote year-round recreation at state parks. For more information, visit America's State Parks website at stateparks.org. In addition to the hikes, Indiana state park inns will be open for meals. Abe Martin Lodge at Brown County State Park, Clifty Inn at Clifty Falls State Park, Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park, and Turkey Run Inn at Turkey Run State Park will have a brunch beginning at 10 a.m. The Garrison at Fort Harrison State Park and Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park invite hungry hikers to check out their great salad bars. More information is at IndianalInns.com. Some of the hikes are listed below. More may be added, so check the website if your favorite place isn't listed. Make sure to wear sturdy,



Photo courtesy Indiana DNR

The hike at Shades State Park begins at 2 p.m. on the rugged Trail 1.

comfortable shoes on all hikes and dress for the weather.

- Brookville Lake. Meet at the Campground Shelter at Mounds State Recreation Area at 11 a.m. to hike the Wildlife Wander Trail, a .75-mile hike that should take approximately 45 minutes.
- Brown County State Park. First Day hike and ride are available. The self-guided hike will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Start at the Nature Center and walk or bike to the CCC Vista. There will be a fire and hot chocolate nearby. Horseback riders can enjoy a group ride at 11 a.m., meeting at the Green Horne Shelter.
- Chain O'Lakes State Park. Meet at the Boat Rental Parking Lot at 11 a.m. This guided hike is about 1.5 miles over easy terrain and should last about 1.5 hours. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served after the hike as long as they last.
- Charlestown State Park. Meet at the parking lot for trails 3 and 4 at 10 a.m. for a 2.5-mile hike to Rose Island. This hike takes approximately two hours and is considered moderately rugged.
- Clifty Falls State Park. Meet at Clifty Shelter at 10 a.m. The two-hour moderately rugged hike is along Trail 8, which meanders along the west side of Clifty Creek and provides scenic views of the canyon below. Refreshments will be provided after the hike.
- Deam Lake State Recreation Area. Meet at the Lake Vista trailhead at 10 a.m. This hike is rugged with some short, steep stretches that lead to rock outcroppings and the property's highest point.

- Refreshments and prizes will be provided after the hike. At noon, there will be a trail ride beginning at the Oak Barn in the Horse Campground along the 6-mile Deam Horse Trail loop.
- Falls of the Ohio State Park. Meet at the Interpretive Center at 1 p.m. for an exploration hike to the fossil beds. Learn about Devonian sea life as well as plants and animals that live along the river's edge. Bring binoculars to look for winter birds. The Interpretive Center will offer access to restrooms before and after the hike but will otherwise be closed.
- Fort Harrison State Park. Meet at Delaware Lake Shelter at 1 p.m. for a 2-mile hike on Harrison Trace, a paved trail. Hot chocolate will be provided while supplies last.
- Hardy Lake. Meet at the Main trailhead for a 3-mile moderate hike at 11 a.m. to learn about the land before the lake.
- Harmony State Park. Meet at the campground overflow parking lot at 1 p.m. CT for a hike of Trail 5. Hot cocoa and cookies will be available afterward.
- Indiana Dunes State Park. Meet at the Nature Center for a hike along Trail 7 from 10 a.m. to noon CT. See the park landscapes and learn about park history. Enjoy snacks and a cozy campfire provided by Friends of the Indiana Dunes.
- Interlake Off-road State Recreation Area. Participants are encouraged to festively decorate their ORVs for a parade through the park. The ride will leave Big Kate Shelter in the main parking lot at 10 a.m. CT and will conclude with a group photo. Participants must provide their own ORV. All ORV rules and regulations apply.

*We appreciate
our readers!*